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Green Valley CoC IOI

The Green Valley Church of Christ is growing together in the faith and grace of Christ.

"Scripture is able to provide wisdom that will lead people to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15

In this course

1. *The Bible & Creation of Man*
2. *Jesus & Salvation*
3. *Our Response*
4. *The Body of Christ*

The Bible

Webster defines "unique" as: (1) "One and only; single, sole"; (2) "Different from all others; having no other equal."

Professor M. Monntiero Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit, spent some 42 years studying Eastern books and said in comparing them to the Bible: "pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone and with a wide gap between them. For, there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the others utterly, hopelessly, and forever...a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science or religious thought" (ref. 6, pp.314, 315).



"All Scripture is God breathed..."
2 Timothy 3:16

THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE IN ITS CONTINUITY.

This harmony exists in spite of the fact that it was written over a 1600-year span, during 60 generations, and by more than 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, and others. The Bible was written in a variety of places and customs, during times of war and peace, on three continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe), in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).

F. F. Bruce ("The Books and the Parchments," Fleming H. Revell) observes that: "Any part of the human body can only be properly explained in reference to the whole body. And any part of the Bible can only be properly explained in reference to the whole Bible" (ref.5, p.89).

"The Bible, at first sight, appears to be a collection of literature--mainly Jewish. If we inquire into the circumstances under which the various biblical documents were written, we find that they were written at intervals over a space of nearly 1400 years. The writer wrote in various lands, from Italy in the west, to Mesopotamia and possibly Persia in the east.

"The writers themselves were a diverse group of people, not only separated from each other by hundreds of years and hundreds of miles, but belonging to the most different walks of life. In their ranks we have kings, herdsman, soldiers, legislators, fishermen,

statesmen, courtiers, priests, prophets, a tentmaker, a gentile physician, not to speak of others of whom we know nothing, apart from the writings they have left us.

"The writings themselves belong to a great variety of literary types. They include history, law (civil, criminal, ethical, ritual, sanitary), religious poetry, didactic treatises, lyric poetry, parable and allegory, biography, personal correspondence, personal memoirs and diaries, in addition to the distinctively biblical types of prophecy and apocalyptic.

"For all that, the Bible is not simply a collection of writings, or anthology; there is a unity which binds the whole together. An anthology is compiled by an anthologist, but no anthologist compiled the Bible."

Questions

1. Does the Bible have any literary equal in the world?
2. What duration of time constituted the writing of the Bible?
3. How many different authors does the Bible have? What kinds of people were they?
4. Would you say the Bible is one book or many or both? Why?
5. What kind of literary types does the Bible possess?

The Creation of Man



The Creation of the Universe & Man

As Genesis tells it, God created a masterpiece we call earth and shrouded it in deep cloud (Gen.1:2,6-8). then he bathed it in light and separated the thick cloud around the earth from the earth's surface and called the space between them the sky (1:6-8). He caused the waters that covered the earth to pour off the landmasses and form the seas (1:9-10). From the

ground God made vegetation to grow (1:11-12). He placed the sun and moon in relation to the earth to rule day and night (1:14-19). The sea, lakes and rivers he filled with living things and the sky he filled with birds (1:20-23). Then he filled the land with cattle and other kinds of animals (1:24-25). He looked at it all and breathed: "That's good!" (1:4,10,12,18,21,25)

Then God created his masterpiece within the masterpiece—Man himself (Genesis 1:26-29; 2:7,18-25). Having made him, God surveyed all he created and murmured: "Very good!" (1:31)

God deliberately created mankind in two distinct acts. First he created the male part of Man then the female part of Man out of the male (2:7,21-25) Both male and female make up Man as 1:27 tells us. They are both called 'Adam' which is the Hebrew word for 'Man' (in the sense of mankind)—Genesis 5:2. God created a 'plural unity'. Why?

God created Man in two phases to reflect the Church in its relationship to Christ. Right from the beginning God was teaching us that his love would lead him to rescue Man from sin by Jesus Christ. Christ would take on the role of a 'Husband' to a 'wife' (the Church) for whom he would be (as it were) 'put to sleep' (see Genesis 2:21). Paul makes this point in Ephesians 5:30-32.

God created Man in two phases to stress the fact that man was made for 'fellowship', for life within relationships. For Man to be fully Man there must be a social element, he is not made to 'be alone' (Genesis 2:18). In summing up what God wanted for and from Man, Jesus said he wanted men to live in loving relationships with God and one another (Matthew 22:36-40).



The image of God is also reflected in the role God gave the humans to play as rulers of creation. They weren't God! But he did give them dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). They were to reflect him as they ruled. (Naming the animals also stressed Man's dominion over them.) See Psalm 8.

God created Man in two phases to reflect the loving fellowship within the Godhead. We are told that Man is made 'in the image of God' (Genesis 1:26-27;5:1-2). Whatever else that means (and we are not plainly told what it means), it means God is a 'community' being. God is a single spirit Being in whom there is more than one 'person' (John 1:1). God said, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness...and God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). Man as a 'plural unity' reflects the plural unity' within God. Man being created for loving communion reflects the loving communion within the divine bond.

Questions

1. What kind of intentions did God create with? Good or Evil?
2. What Bible verses illustrate the creation of mankind?
3. Are both men and women 'man'? What verse tells us?
4. God created man in two phases to illustrate what intention?
5. What does fellowship mean?
6. How did Jesus 'sum up' what he wanted for Man in Matthew 22:36-40?
7. Discuss God's intention for creating Man in His image.
8. What verses indicate that God wanted Man to rule over creation?